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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Between the law student at the University of Nebraska and the members of the local and state bar associations there exists an unfortunate gap which is due in part to the isolation of the two institutions from one another. The bases for this isolation are not readily determinable, but in general it may be said that a lack of concern is the major causal factor on both sides. Absence of an opportunity for contact fosters this attitude and the longer one is in the practice the less likely he is to really concern himself with the law school, its needs, and its problems. For no longer does it really seem relevant. Perhaps this is as it should be, but to moralize on the issue here will serve no useful purpose. From the student's point of view it is unfortunate, however, in the sense that he is losing something very meaningful by not coming into contact with the members of the active practice, save in a few individual circumstances.

Perhaps this gap could be narrowed to a certain extent, if not permanently closed, by arousing in the members of the bar an interest in the law school and its curriculum; by doing something for their benefit rather than inflexibly insisting upon the reverse. There are many areas of the law which are rapidly changing and, unfortunately, not every practicing attorney is able to keep up with these recent developments, except in their specific area of practice. In Nebraska, the most obvious example of change is the Uniform Commercial Code, enacted into law four years ago, but which is used only by a handful of attorneys. Needless to say, a primary reason for its non-use is that many attorneys simply do not understand the code and the ways in which it can be used.

A remedial solution is suggested which would entail effort on the part of both the law student and the bar, in which the students could put on a student-conducted program or institute similar to those put on by the bar, for the benefit of both. Specific provisions of the Code could be discussed and presented, for example, or an analysis of recent developments in the criminal law which may be of some help to court-appointed attorneys who are somewhat unfamiliar with the subject, or who are unable to keep up to date on their own. The resources are available from which a beneficial result could be realized. It seems senseless to let them deteriorate without having been exhausted.

In our last issue there was an attempt to acquaint the members of the bar with the deplorable physical state of our facilities here

at the college of law. Needless to say, it has not remedied itself since November. But perhaps if the members of the bar were to realize some tangible benefits from the law school they could more closely identify with its problems. Perhaps too, they would be more willing to part with their time and efforts to assist us in an attempt to rectify this extremely disturbing situation. The editors submit this possibility only in the hope that it may seem appealing to the members of the bar, and suggest that its implementation would be a most worthwhile endeavor. A feasible possibility for the opportunity to conduct such institutes lies in the construction of a new law school with continuing educational facilities for the members of the bar association. Perhaps it could even house the headquarters of the state bar association, but in any event it would provide a convenient situs for such programs and would certainly be beneficial to practicing attorneys.

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The rapid growth of the University of Nebraska in recent years has resulted in an increasing number of graduating seniors each year. As the class becomes larger, the ceremony becomes less personal and more routine, simply because of its magnitude. Graduating seniors from the College of Law receive the degree of Juris Doctor, and only in 1969 did the university administration formally recognize the distinction at formal commencement by hooding the president of the senior class, thus symbolically hooding the entire class.

While it may seem trivial to some, the seniors at the College of Law are in the process of attempting to wrest the power and control from the administration with respect to our graduation, and allocate that power where we feel it should be: in the college of law itself. It is hoped that as a result the culmination of our years in school will be a meaningful experience. The *Review* would like to thank the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys and the House of Delegates of the Nebraska State Bar Association, on behalf of the student body, for aiding us in our efforts. In spite of the vast amount of administrative red tape we sincerely hope that it has not all been a futile venture.

The Editors